

REMARKS

The specification has been amended at page 1 to insert a cross-reference to related Application No. 09/864,194. In addition, the specification has been amended at pages 3 and 12 to correct minor typographical errors.

Claims 2 and 3 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been canceled.

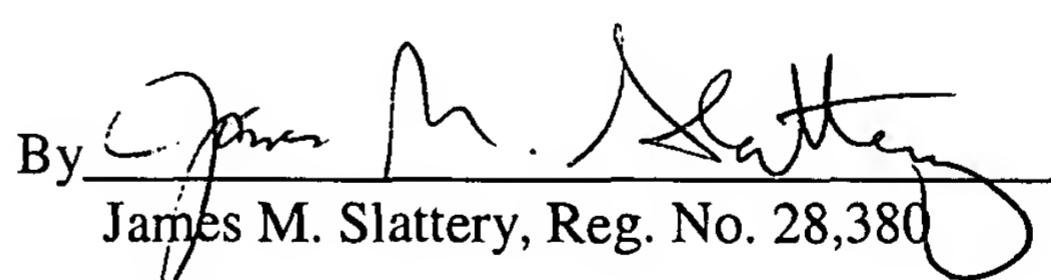
In view of the above-amendments, it is believed that the application is in good condition for examination.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact James M. Slattery (Reg. No. 28,380) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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Attachment(s): Appendix containing an Abstract of the Disclosure